The Morning Albertan

Calgary, Feb. 29, 1908.

GRAPHIC STORY OF DEVELOPMENT OF ALBERTA

--by Rev. John McDougall, D.D.

I came into Northern, or what is really Central Alberta, during the summer of 1862. I came from what is now Kewatin, and north of Lake Winnipeg.

There were at that time eight Hudson's Bay posts in Alberta. Edmonton was the most southerly of these, the others being situated beside the lades and rivers of the country north of the North Saskatchewan river. There were three Roman Catholic missions--St. Albert, nine miles north of Fort Edmonton; Lac St. Ann's and Lac La Biche. There were two Methodist missions, one at Smoking Lake and the other at Whitefish Lake.

In 1862, there were no settlers or settlements outside of these Hudson's Bay posts and mission stations in Alberta.

Buffalo and forest game, fish and wild fowl constituted the food of the people then dwelling or roaming in Alberta. At that time the buffalo migrations were north in winter and south in summer. These splendid meat and fur-bearing animals were in great numbers.

The immigrants of that period were the few missionaries and the Hudson's Bay employees and an occasional free trader. None of them were permanent settlers but nomads.

The aboriginal people were the Crees, the Mountain and Wood Stonies and the Beaver Indians, and coming south the

the Sarcees, the Blackfeet, Bloods and Peigans. These people spoke four distinct languages and in turn these languages became very much dialetical, according to distance and locality. There were a few French mixed bloods, who were like the Indians, nomads, but centered at times around the Roman Catholic missions.

In 1862, one might travel for many days on horseback or by dog train and outside of his own party never see a human being. The country was large. The people were scarce. Moreover, tribal war was constant and this concentrated the tribes and prevented them scattering.

In 1862 there were no waggons in Alberta and very few Red River carts and all of these were without iron.

In 1862 the multiple streams of Alberta were without either ferries or bridges. The uniform rate of freight from Red River, or Fort Garry, to Edmonton was ten cents per pound, and from York Factory to Edmonton by inland boat the rate was 17 cents per pound.

In 1862 there was one packet in the twelve months. This generally reached Alberta in February, sometimes in March. Only letters were carried in this packet.

In 1862, tea, salt, and tobacco were $1.00 per lb. Sugar and flour were not for sale. The great majority of the inhabitants had at that time never tasted flour or sugar or syrup; only a very few had begun to drink tea.

In 1862, the Hudson's Bay company had eliminated the rum traffic from their trade and all Alberta was teetotal.

In 1862, the transport power in Alberta was either horses,

oxen or dogs. The Hudson's Bay company used small boats on the North Saskatchewan; these were propelled by man power. Such were conditions in Alberta in 1862.

ALBERTA AS IT WAS IN 1873.

By the end of 1873 the Hudson's Bay company had nine posts in Alberta. The most southerly of these was the Mountain House on the North Saskatchewan. The Roman Catholic church had five missions and the Methodist church also had five. The writer had begun a mission on the Bow river, which was named Morley, and the Rev. Mr. Scollin started a mission on the Elbow about the same time.

In 1873, the mission station at Victoria and Edmonton and St. Albert became the nucleus of settlement in Central Alberta, or, as it was known then, the North Country. A considerable number of mixed Bloods had come west from the Red River settlements to these above mentioned points; some more free traders had also come into the north country.

In 1873, American traders had come across the line and established at Whoopup and Fort Kipp, and in the winter seasons branched out in temporary posts at High River, on the Sheep creek, and on the Elbow and Bow rivers, and even as far north as the Red Deer. These with the exception of I.G. Baker & Co. were in the whiskey trade. Accompanying these were a considerable number of white men, who went into the industry of poisoning wolves and were given the name of "The Wolfers." At that time the large buffalo wolf was in great number in Alberta.

In 1873, the decimation of the southern Indians was rapid because of the whiskey traffic and while all Alberta was without law or government, the southern portion was the scene of many a crime.

In 1873, the only white woman in all Alberta, from Edmonton to the boundary line, was Mrs. McDougall, the wife of the writer, and not until the early part of 1874 did the second white woman come south of Edmonton, and she was Mrs. David McDougall, my brother's wife.

In 1873 tribal war was still rampant and all travel was accomplished at great risk and constant vigilance, was the order both at home and abroad; especially was this true of Southern Alberta.

As to modes of travel and means of transport, very little change had come to pass. A few buckboards and waggons and iron bound carts had taken the place of the saddle and wooden cart. There was no change as yet in communication with the outside world. An occasional traveller might bring one's letters through from Fort Garry. The writer has carried the mails for all Alberta, many thousands of miles, and was not burdened in so doing. The buffalo were still the chief article of food. Their migration had changed somewhat and now in 1873 was west and north in winter, and east and south in summer.

The writer was the onlyprotestant missionary between Edmonton and somewhere in southern Montana, and the Rev. Mr. Scollin was the only R.C. priest in the same territory.

There was not a single school in all this big region at that time. No man dreamed of farming to any extent south of the Red Deer river. As a matter of fact there was not even a little kitchen garden south of Edmonton. Still in 1873 you would travel from the mountains in southern Alberta to Edmonton and again make the return journey and not see a human being, other than your own little company.

Alberta glorious in make, boundless in wealth, was there but still remaining as for ages in primeval solitude and almost undisturbed in quality.

ALBERTA IN 1883.

The mounted police have come in and government has been established. Indian treaties, Nos. 6 and 7½ covering Alberta north to the Athabasca river, have been made. The Indian department has established two agencies in Alberta, at Macleod and Edmonton.

The Hudson's Bay company has come south as far as Morley and then to Calgary. The American firm of I.G. Baker & Co. has come north as far as Calgary. The Anglican and Presbyterian churches have come in to share in the mission work. The former in 1875 and the latter some years later. The original churches, the Roman Cahtolic and Methodist, have followed up the sparse settlement of the country.

The government telegraph line was been built to Edmonton Farming in a sparse way has gone on around Edmonton, Fort Saskatchewan and St. Albert, and around Calgary, Macleod, Pincher Creek, but there has been but a very small percentage

of immigration. Stock raising has been gone into from the Red River south to the 49th parallel, in spots.

The railroad, "The Canadian Pacific," reaches Calgary and passes on up into the mountains as far as Laggan. A sack of flour which would cost in freight from Fort Garry to the mountains $10.00 can now be brought from Winnipeg to Morley for 42 cents a sack in carload lots, thus saving in freight alone, as also very much in wear and tear and weather loss, the sum of $9.58 to the consumer. No wonder you never hear the genuine "old timer" grumbling about freight rates.

One can in the autumn of 1883 take the journey to Winnipeg from Western Alberta and return within the week and be able to do some business in the meanwhile. Up to this time, with relays of horses, the quickest return trip had taken more than one month time and you swam the rivers.

In 1883, still the estimate of Alberta is that the central and north portions are agricultural and from the Red Deer south to the line purely pastoral. Up to the autumn of 1883 the mails had been monthly to Edmonton in the north and Macleod in the south now these come in weekly, then bi-weekly and shortly daily.

In 1883, stage lines were inaugurated with Edmonton on the north and Macleod on the south. These were weekly trips. In 1883 slowly immigration began to come into Alberta.

In 1883, with seeming reluctance, theeastern Canadian began to believe the old timer that "there was good land along the eastern base of the rocky mountains." In 1883 eastern

Canada had of necessity to recreate its geographical, agricultural, pastoral, climatic and general knowledge of the Alberta portion of its own country.

In 1883 we had the Canadian Pacific built and running to the mountains. We had a stage line north to Edmonton and also south to Macleod. Beyond these as means of transport the rest of Alberta was as in the beginning of things, and if you would travel you must outfit yourself and trust to Providence and your own resources.

In 1883, there were two schools in Southern Alberta, one at Morley and another at Macleod.

ALBERTA IN 1908.

We now are jumping a quarter of a century, from 1883 to 1908. What are the changes. First, as to population. A liberal estimate would give Alberta in 1883, 20,000 of a population, in 1906 Alberta had 185,000 people within her limits. Possibly the present population is close to a quarter of a million. With the advent of the railroad the quality of immigration began to take on a cosmopolitan character. This continued to advance until in 1906 fifty-four different nationalities and countries were represented and in this Alberta received her full share. Should the past ratio of increase keep up, by the year 1911, Alberta will have 1,000,000 or more in population.

DEVELOPMENT IN TRANSPORT.

Alberta in 1908 has two railways creeping through her territory, east and west. These are both in the southern portion. In the central part of Alberta there are two more transcontinentals building. One is now running from the Great Lakes to some miles west and north of Edmonton, and the other expects to do likewise by the end of 1908. Both of these will cut right through Alberta, east and west.

The Canadian Pacific, moreover, has built and has in operation two branches. One from Lacombe easterly to Stettler, fifty-one miles, and another from Wetaskiwin easterly to Hardisty, ninety-five miles. This latter it is expected will be connected via Saskatoon to Winnipeg, and all the east and south during 1908. In addition there are two railroads running south and south-westerly from Lethbridge. One into Montana and the other taking in the flourishing towns of Raymond, Magrath and Cardston. There are also the Calgary and Macleod, and the Calgary and Edmonton branches, these together making a three hundred mile stretch of railway north and south in Alberta.

This province has now something over 1,300 miles of railway and at present building, and contracts given and surveys taken could speak to many hundreds of miles in the near future. In the meantime many stage lines carrying mails and passengers have been put on the roads of Alberta and thus the outlaying settlements have been brought into the range of communication by weekly and bi-monthly mail

service. In this connection very many roads have been opened up and the many streams have been bridged and the trails improved so that one can drive or use an auto from the southern boundary on north to the Athabasca Landing. And a cart and waggon road has been made into the Peace River country.

As an instance of population and travel on these railroads in Alberta. During November, 1907, one conductor on the Calgary and Edmonton railroad hauled 5,400 passengers, and as there were three other trains on the same run doing the same kind of work, here we have 21,600 people traveling between Calgary and Edmonton on a railraod in one month. This surely is a significant contrast to the time when the writer often went over the same country and found no one living or traveling therein.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

During the spring of 1883 flour was $18.00 per sack in Calgary. All through the sixties and seventies the price of flour had been from $15.00 to $25.00 per sack. The writer in common with the rest living in the northwest at that time, went without eating any bread except as a very occasional luxury for many years; and as there were no oats, nor hay, nor stables, the only means of travel in the early years in winter were by dog train.

In 1908 we find consecutive farming settlement from the boundary line up to the distance of sixty miles north of Edmonton, a distance of four hundred miles, and this strip

of settlement is approximately one hundred miles wide and the area of farming settlement overlaps this strip many miles. Especially is this true of that country east and northeast and southeast of Edmonton, which is now being served, by the Canadian Northern railway.

In 1908, there are scores of mills, big and small, but generally most modern in equipment, stretched along the lines of railway, and sometimes distant from these. In traveling, in 1908, north and south in Alberta, from away beyond Edmonton to the boundary line, between Alberta and the United States, one could hardly be out of sight of either mills or elevators, while keeping the centre of settlement. Then, one could travel into the far north in Alberta, and still find modern flour mills, situated as these are, away down on the bank of the Peace river.

In 1906 Alberta had 30,211 farms.

In 1906 Alberta had 223,930 acres in wheat.

In 1906 Alberta had 597,000 acres in oats and barley.

In 1905 the Morman colony in Southern Alberta living as they do on the highest land outside of the mountains in Alberta, raised 1,000,000 bushels of wheat. That same year this province raised 1,980,000 bushels of winter wheat. This ranging from thirty-one to fifty-one bushels per acre.

In 1908 Alberta has just now begun its agricultural development. As yet but a small fraction of its possible area has been stirred by the plough from the long sleep of

the centuries. Enough is known to prove the wonderful richness of the soil of Alberta. In this connection the possibilities of irrigation in Alberta are tremendous. From the southerly edges of timber reaching south to the 49th parallel nature has made rich provisions for the wholesale watering of the land. Multiple streams parallel each other in the race across the southern portion of this wonderful porvince. The sources of these streams are terenniel. Great ranges of mountains are as the eternal reservoirs of abundance of splendid water. In the south the railway company and the Morman people have shown Canada what can be down by this system of intesne agriculture, and in a small way several private parties have done the same thing. During the last three years the Canadian Pacific company has gone to work on a huge scale and now there are hundreds of miles of main ditches and their lateral winding through the country east of Calgary, and this will doubtless go on until all the area between the Bow, Belly and Red Deer rivers is brought under the fertilising influence of irrigation. And when this is done there will have been used but a percentage of the overflow waters of the streams nature has with lavish hand made available.

As the agriculturist gains experience in the soil and climate and in the reasonable disposition of water for his purpose, intense agriculture will begin and even the optimist will be astonished at the fecundity of Alberta's soil.

As to the cultivation of vegetables. This is possible

everywhere in all this province, where there is any soil. Potatoes, turnips, cabbage, cauliflowers, roots of all kind have been most successful, and in Southern Alberta, on the highlands of Alberta, the soil and climate have proved permanently adopted to the culture of sugar beets. These have been found to be possessed of a high percentage of saccharine quality and in consequence a large modern sugar factory has been erected and fully equipped with all up-to-date appliacnes and millions of pounds of beet sugar are being furnished to the market. This enterprise can be multiplied in many parts of Southern and Central Alberta as need may require.

DEVELOPMENT IN STOCK RAISING.

Fourth--Closely connected with agriculture are the stock raising and dairying industries. In 1864 the writer brought the first dairy stock into Alberta northeast of Fort Edmonton. These consisted of four cows and one bull, and he had driven them from the Red River valley.

In the autumn of 1873 again the writer brought from Edmonton south into the Bow valley, the first dairy cattle ever brought into Southern Alberta. These all told numbered, young and old, some twelve head. In 1873, there may have been in Alberta 2,000 head of cattle and perhaps 25,000 horses, mostly cayuses. In 1906 there were in Alberta 2 226, 534 horses, 950,000 cattle, 154,226 sheep and 114,623 swine. The writer is safe in saying that no part of this great Dominion is as well adopted by Nature for the purpose

of stockraising as Alberta. This was in Canada the great pasture land of the countless herds of buffalo and also the innumerable flocks of antelope. These fulfilling their mission and passing away, made room for domestic stock. Home consumption, British Columbia and the Yukon and the British Isles have furnished the markets. Recently the United States opened its doors and many Alberta raised stock went to Chicago. Some of the finest cattle, horses, sheep and swine in the world are now in the stables and fields and ranges of Alberta. One has but to attend the annual fairs to see this fact. One has but to ride the ranges to know that in this industry the men of Alberta have caught on to the purpose of God when He set Nature to work to rpoduce such a country as this.

Connected with this is the dairying industry. This has grown from nothing in the writer's experience to hundreds of thousands of pounds of delicious butter and cheese and while here there has been marvelous progress, still like all other things in this new land, it is but as yet in its infancy.

DEVELOPMENT IN EDUCATION.

Fifth--In the matter of education the development in contrast is most striking:

In 1862 there was but one school in Alberta.

In 1883 there were but twenty-eight schools between Edmonton and the 49th parallel.

In 1908 Alberta has well up to one thousand schools and

two colleges and is now organizing a university. The early settler and missionary and later immigrant, the territorial government and the provincial government all have been fully alive to this great question and the progress made therein has been most phenominal.

THE CHURCH GROWTH.

Sixth--The church growth is also great in contrast. A very little band of missionaries representing the Roman Catholic and Methodist churches in the sixties all located in the central parts of Alberta. For the most of the seventies only two missionaries representing the same churches in all that big country between Edmonton and the Missouri river. And now in 1903 what have we. Truly, the contrast is very great.

The Roman Catholic church has occupied the province from one end to the other: churches, schools, convents, and hospitals are now in 1908 broadcast through the land. The half a dozen priests have grown into a big diocese and this in turn has overgrown into another in the northern part of Alberta. The little company of Sisters of Charity stationed at St. Albert and Lac la Biche in the sixties, is now a multitude of consecrated women serving humanity in schools and convents and hospitals, north and south in Alberta.

The Anglican church with its "lone little man" as its pioneer missionary in 1875 has also grown into two large dioceses in Alberta and from the 49th parallel, even to the 60th, its agents are to the front for God and humahity.

The Presbyterian church has accomplished wonders in the time, coming in as they did as No. 4 in church work in Alberta. They have had a missionary in the Peace River country and now in 1908 their agents are at work from the Pembina river in the north to the southern limits of the province. The colonising and adventurous spirit of the Scotch Presbyterian, has put them well to the front in this western land.

The Baptists are new in this western land, but they have taken hold with such zeal and strenuous vigor, that they have compassed great things in the time. Everywhere in Alberta where there are Baptists, their missionaries are on hand to give the people all the privileges and blessings of their own communion.

The Methodists were first upon the scene in this loneliness in 1842. Then after a few years of travel and evangelistic work, this one man returned to England and not until 1855 was his work taken up by two men from Eastern Canada. In 1908 the one man of 1842, and the two men of 1855, has grown into a conference. The agents and missionaries of this conference cover the province in pursuit of the work committed to them. In this case also, the contrast is most marked.

Of the man (sic) nationalities and other denominations who have come into Alberta, these also, have carried on their own church work. In this connection we have the Greek Catholic church, the Scandinavian churches, and the Mormon

church, all striving to maintain the faith of their fathers and foster its rites in this new land. Truly, the contrast is great. Yesterday the "Thirst Lodge" and the "Sundance Lodge." Today the psalms and hymns of worship of many people and tongues in Alberta.

CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT.

Seventh--The changes in government in Alberta have been rapid and full of contrast. Until 1874 every man was a law unto himself. Tribal war was constant from the Athabasca southward. In the north country the people have been at peace without law for generations.

After 1874, there was the law of Canada as administered by the mounted police. Then this was followed soon by the organization of the territorial government, which had jurisdiction from the western boundary of Manitoba even to the summit of the Rocky Mountains. These powers were most excellentiin their administration of government, education, public works and the general maintenance of law and order in this vast territory, were faithfully performed. We believe that in no area so large and just now coming out of the barbarious, lawless condition could there have been found so small a percentage of crime as in Canada's great west during this period.

In 1905 Alberta was created into a province and on September 1st of that year she started out on her autonomic life. While we write her first legislature is holding its third session.

Great moral and provincial questions are being discussed by as intelligent a body of men as can be found in any legislature in our wide Dominion.

In the matter of government, the mother government in Canada started her youngest dauther out in life with a magnificent outfit. Surely the contrast is great. A wonderful country up to 1874 without government or order, and now in 1908 a still more wonderful country with one of the best governments in the world and aiming to do better.

The quality of the development in Alberta will bring out the contrasts clearly:

Yesterday, crudity, barbarism, all men nomads: today, the settled permanent life, and a moderniety of the first water.

Yesterday, a dog train struggling with a single passenger; today, a palatial sleeper on a magnificent railway train.

Yesterday, a camp in the snow and without shelter; today, a comfortable hotel.

Yesterday, a strenuous time making forty miles in the day as an average in travel; today, with ease and luxury making forty miles per hour.

Yesterday, the whip saw and two men working hard for ten hours and throwing off thirty small boards or planks; today, the big mill and gang saw and 100,000 feet in less time.

Yesterday, a grubbing hoe; today, a gang or steam plough and acres of sod turned under.

Yesterday, the little round log school house with its parchment window; today, the large many-roomed public school building, stately in its beauty and strong and lasting with its steel and stone.

Yesterday, the humble service in the buffalo-skin lodge or settlers' shack; today, the great cathedral or capacious church and big organ and cultured choir and many hundreds of earnest worshippers.

Yesterday, the small trading post with its closed door and trade and barter being transacted through a small hole in the wall; today, the magnificent store with its courteous clerks and everything and e verybody from the flaring advertisements to the floor walker, saying "Come and buy."

Yesterday, a little shipment pulled across an empire on a shrieking, squealing, ironless cart; today, immense warehouses, ponderous in their strength of cement and brick and steel and stone, and whose doors are open six days in the week, receiving and delivering the commodities of this day and time.

Yesterday, you strained your eyes beside the flickering campfire or tallow dip; today, natural and manufactured gas and lightning flare give you bright and pleasant light.

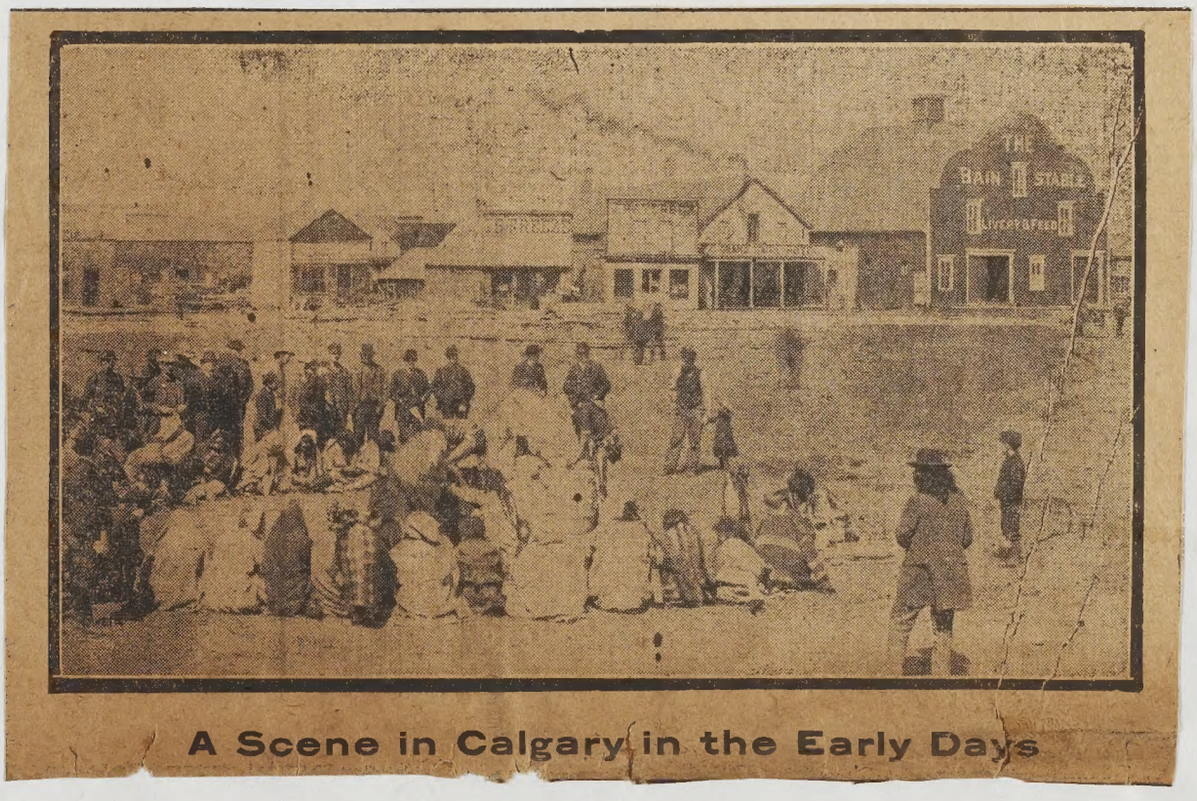
Yesterday, Alberta was without mails or telegraphs or telephones; today, Edmonton and all between, and Lethbridge and all between, are here beside you, even in your house in

Calgary, and with your daily paper and hourly wire and tinkling bell you have all the can whisper across the leagues friend's ear.

And thus we might go on in contrasts, but some one says the same or part would be true of older lands. Yes, but there the occupancy and civilization is old and you glide into the charge without wonder. But, in Alberta all this has come to pass in time so short it takes one's breath. Then you stop and think and from what we know you say this is but the glimmering dawn of "The Coming Day."

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALBERTA.

REV. JOHN McDOUGALL, D.D.
The Pioneer of the Canadian West.



A Scene in Calgary in the Early Days